



December 9, 2005

TechNews is a guide to share information regarding deadlines, events and software version release dates. The intended audiences are FPA system application users. New FPA updates, changes and work arounds to PCHA and FPA-PM are listed below. Web site links relative to the software updates are also highlighted.

Visit the FPA home page (<http://www.fpa.nifc.gov/>) for the redesigned and reorganized User Guide for FPA-PM. Links to both FPA-PM and BDD are now located at the top of the FPA home page.

System Access: Effective immediately anyone requesting access to FPA-PM and BDD will need a separate login for each system. Those already having access may continue to use the existing logins received for FPA-PM.

In an effort to clean-up the FPA system, most test areas will be removed. Many of these “sandboxes” were established before there was the capability of having multiple planning datasets. Since that shortcoming has been corrected, testing or what-if analyses can be done within the FPU work space.

Budget Development and Deployment (BDD): BDD Version 1.1 has been released. There are a few issues on managing the data going into BDD that have to be resolved before we know it is ready for heavy use. That information will be coming in another TechNews in the next week or so.

Submitting FPA-PM Runs:

- FPU Teams are encouraged to complete their runs as soon as possible so there is adequate time for line officer approval and BDD submissions. Please keep in mind that the State/Regional Office reviewers have to look at, and approve, all FPU BDD requests.
- For the budget run to be successfully submitted there can be **NO** non-Federal Budgeted owners (resources or dispatch locations) in the FPU. This includes federally operated Dispatch Centers. Dispatch Centers may be physically located at the same location that fire resources are, but they are not to be included in the analysis as a dispatch location. Bottom line – if the unit identifier ends in C it must not be shown as a budgeted FPU participant. A patch to provide warnings at several points in the program to prevent submission of non-federal budgeted owner dispatch locations and Dispatch Centers is being tested and may come out as a point release shortly.

Reviews: In answer to a number of queries, local line officer approval is required for the BDD request from the FPUs. Line officer approval is also required for State/Regional office BDD request items.

Both the Technical Review and Line Officer Approval White Papers have been revised and approved by the Steering Committee. They are available at the following URLs:

http://www.fpa.nifc.gov/Library/Papers/Docs/WP_Cert_approval_2005_12_8.pdf

http://www.fpa.nifc.gov/Library/Papers/Docs/WP_Approval_Analysis_2005_12_8.pdf

These papers provide the direction needed to complete the budget submission process.

LDAP Cleanup: We need to update the system contact information and to remove “sandboxes” from the production system. This will potentially give us a boost in system performance.

GA leads will be sent a list of FPUs. We would appreciate it if:

- The Administrator who will submit budget requests are identified
- User access levels can be reviewed. If it is no longer necessary for individuals to have Editor or Administrator access to FPU data, this should be noted.
- GA leads could ask each FPU Administrator to provide the ICG with current contact information for each user in each FPU. We would appreciate an e-mail containing the following for each user: Send to: Ed_Delaney@nps.gov

User ID

FPU Unique Identifier (e.g. NW-WA-010)

Current (working) e-mail

Work telephone number

Appropriate Access Level (i.e., Administrator, Editor, Reader)

2006 Spring FPA-PM Training Dates: (limited to 24 students per session)

- April 3-7 NCTC Shepherdstown, WV
- May 8-12 NIFC Boise, ID
- May 22-26 NIFC Boise, ID (tentative date if needed)

GS-401 Credit for FPA-PM: There will be no GS-401 credit for FPA-PM. The IFPM GS-0401 Education/Training Assessment Board has denied FPA-PM as a GS-401 credit.

"FPA-PM training has been added to IQCS under course code N9021. Students who successfully completed both FPA-HA and FPA-PM between October 2004 and June 2005 should provide their agency training officer a copy of their course certificates as documentation of course completion for inclusion of the student's training in the IQCS database. All FPA-PM training after June 2005 combined PM and HA training, hence only one certificate is issued."